



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 28, 2000

H.R. 3676

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 20, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3676 would not significantly affect the federal budget. Because the bill could affect offsetting receipts (a form of direct spending), pay-as-you-go procedures would apply; however, CBO estimates that any such effects would be negligible.

H.R. 3676 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. The bill contains a private-sector mandate, as defined by UMRA, on operators of commercial air tours. CBO estimates that the mandate would impose no additional costs on the private sector.

H.R. 3676 would establish the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument on about 272,000 acres of land in California. Of the lands that would be included in the monument, about 152,000 acres are federally owned and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service; the rest of the lands are owned by state, tribal, or private entities. The bill specifies that BLM and the Forest Service would continue to administer federally owned lands and stipulates that the monument designation would have no impact on any nonfederal property rights or interests.

H.R. 3676 would direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an advisory committee to assist in developing a management plan for the conservation and protection of the national monument and would authorize the two agencies to enter into cooperative agreements to implement that plan. The bill also would authorize the agencies to acquire nonfederal lands within the boundaries of the monument by donation, exchange, or purchase from willing sellers. Based on information from BLM and the Forest Service, CBO estimates that operating the advisory committee, developing the management plan, and adding staff and services to the area would cost less than \$500,000 annually starting in 2001, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. We estimate that other provisions would not affect discretionary spending.

Subject to valid existing rights, H.R. 3676 would withdraw federal lands within the proposed national monument from entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws and from mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing. Enacting those provisions would result in forgone offsetting receipts from those lands over the next five years. Based on information from BLM and the Forest Service, CBO does not expect the amount of receipts from these activities to be significant.

H.R. 3676 would prohibit commercial air tour operations over the national monument that would be established by the bill, unless such tours were conducted prior to February 16, 2000. According to government sources, no such operations are in existence and none are planned or expected. Thus, this mandate would not impose any incremental costs on the private sector.

The CBO staff contacts are Megan Carroll (for federal costs), and Natalie Tawil (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.